

# CONNECTICUT MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION

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Transportation Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: **Committee Bill No. 5946 An Act Concerning Warranties Applicable to Vessels and Marine Engines**

Chairmen Maynard and Guererra:

The membership of the Connecticut Marine Trades Association urges you to not support **Committee Bill No. 5946 An Act Concerning Warranties Applicable to Vessels and Marine Engines**. It is unnecessary, unwarranted and imposes a significant financial burden on the marine industry and the manufacturers and would provide many opportunities for misuse by an unreasonable consumer.

All current marine vessels and products sold in Connecticut are provided with warranties and certificates for their proper use. As manufacturing techniques have improved, the warranties and guarantees have improved and truly meet the needs and desires of the consumers. A "lemon law" for boats is unnecessary and unworkable for a number of reasons. It is unwarranted, the complaints received about the operation and performance of new boats over the past ten years are very minimal. CMTA has worked with the only two that come to mind and with the renewed dedication toward quality that the industry had 8 years ago, the vessel owners were satisfied that their issues were corrected.


Boats and automobiles are very different. An auto is manufactured by one entity alone that is responsible for the construction, quality control, and warranty of every part and component. A vessel is comprised of many different construction parts from many different manufacturers. Hull, engines, controls, appliances, fixtures, canvas, all are from different sources and carry different warranties. And the history in Connecticut by the marine manufacturers standing behind their products is very good. A lemon law is unwarranted primarily because a boat is not an automobile. It does not have the required importance to the public, that it should be covered. Nor has it generated the complaints to warrant this initiative.

Connecticut has over 500 businesses involved in recreational boating, 300 of which are members of our Association. When we received a product complaint in the past, we worked with the owner, the manufacturer and the national trade association to address the owner's concerns and closed the issues promptly to the owner's satisfaction.

We understand that it takes prompt attention and response to maintain a good Customer Satisfaction Index or CSI, all marine dealers are rated by that index and required to comply. This **Bill No. 5946 An Act Concerning Warranties Applicable to Vessels and Marine Engines** is unnecessary. We would be very pleased to discuss these issues at length at any time.

Thank you.

  
John S. Johnson  
Legislative Chair

  
Grant W. Westerson  
President